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Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

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Colonel Bryan might rally his old Free-Silver friends to the aid of the campaign fund by selling them his handsome \$1 contribution certificates for 53 cents.—St. Louis Times.

# SPORTS

## PLENTY SNAGS IN MATCH MAKING

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 19.—When it comes to dealing with squeamish people there is little to choose between the life of a fight promoter and that of an operative impresario. The champion and near-champion boxers are even more fickle than the song-birds of the operatic world. Conreid and Hammerstein think they have their troubles, but if you talk to a fight promoter for a few minutes you'll come away imbued with the idea that the theatrical magnates have a snap compared to what they are obliged to go through in order to sign up a pair of top-notch fighters.

One bugaboo is the color line. If that imaginary line could only be wiped out there would be much rejoicing in the ranks of the promoters, as that would leave the bars down for several crack fighters who would be only too glad to talk shop to the men who are engaged in scratching their heads trying to think of a match which would not only satisfy the public, but which would also enable them to clean up a little profit.

Maybe Jack Johnson, Sam Langford and Joe Blackburn wouldn't exhibit a collection of ivories that would make your eyes open if Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Bill Papke, Hugo Kelly and the balance of the color-line jumpers would wet a big sponge and get busy erasing the black mark which they have drawn around themselves. And the promoters, too, would be ready and willing to open a few bottles of bubble water to celebrate the event.

Another snag that the local promoters have run up against is the bonus fad. A champion nowadays thinks that his name is the magnet which brings all of the money into the box-office and that his opponent and the promoter should be satisfied with "coffee and doughnut" change for their work. When two champions clash, each holds out for a bonus and the promoter, instead of figuring out how many thousands he is going to make, burns the midnight oil endeavoring to curtail expenses so as to break even.

But strange as it may seem, even a big bonus will not move some of the

top-notchers to action when the man they are offered the match with is considered to be a pretty tough proposition. It is said that Charlie Lercari, the man who is now handling the business affairs of the Pacific Athletic Club, offered Bill Papke the biggest bonus ever heard of in fightdom to box Hugo Kelly twenty rounds in October, but the proposition was declined. According to the stories published in many of the prominent Eastern papers, Papke fears Kelly because of the hard fights the Italian gave him, and this may be the reason why he don't care to pick up the big bunch of mazzuma on the side. If Kelly should defeat Papke in October there would be no Ketchel-Papke fight in November.

Strong pressure is now being brought to bear upon Willis Britt to have Battling Nelson box Packy McFarland in October, and a big bonus is one of the wedges that is being used to get the Dane to agree to take on the Stockyards lightweight in a twenty-round bout. As yet, the Dane hasn't swallowed the bait, as he seems to think that he can't trim the Eastern boxer in that number of rounds and wants to get him in a finish fight.

So it can be seen that even when a promoter is willing to give away his profits in order to get a classy card he can't make good. If you want to get gray hairs mixed in with your locks or are anxious to become bald get in line when the 1909 permits are distributed and join Jack Gleason, Sam Berger and Charlie Lercari in the tussle with the pugilistic stars. In this respect "Smiling Jim" Coffroth has a shade the best of the city promoters inasmuch as he can pull off a fight any old time while the local men are obliged to get busy and arrange to hold a contest on a certain date.

Another advantage Coffroth has is that he can stage 45-round fights, which keeps the "iron men" on his staff, and while he is compelled to give a bonus to the stars he don't have to cut into his profits quite as much as his competitors.

## THIS BUSHER IS GREAT GUNNER

CHICAGO, Sept. 19.—Some startling tales are creeping eastward regarding the performances of Ralph Rapdfire, the latest pitching phenomenon just unearthed in Coldstream, Ariz. As the leading twirler of the local club, his record to date has been such that major league clubs as far east as Chicago have already notified their scouts to hurry to Coldstream to size Rapdfire up. He is credited with the most unusual form of wind-up ever seen among professional baseball pitchers.

It is said by those who have seen him pitch that his style closely resembles the action of a hammer thrower just before hurling the weights. He uses from two to three complete turns before delivering the ball and can shoot the sphere either underhand or overhand. Rapdfire relies almost entirely on speed, seldom using a curve delivery. Despite the sameness of his delivery, he has been most successful in his first season with a minor league club. In the nine games he has pitched to date, every one has been a victory for his own team, and six have been shutouts. A new record no-hit game is claimed for Rapdfire by his admirers. In a recent contest he shut out the opposing team without a hit or without a player reaching first base. Only twenty-six batters faced him in nine innings. This oddity in baseball is accounted for by the fact that one batter became so excited by Rapdfire's eccentric action in the box that he struck twice at each ball delivered, thus constituting two outs.

**THE CAUSE.**

To be short of breath when you walk, climb stairs, are frightened, or agitated, is caused by heart weakness, and will develop into serious heart troubles if not speedily remedied. Weak heart is caused by exhausted nerves. The one sure, safe Heart Remedy is Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure, which feeds the nerves of the heart, and gives them new strength and vigor. At druggists. Money back if first bottle fails to benefit.

Tom Watson can rely upon his own unanimous vote. He supported himself to a man when he ran against Crisp for the Speakership of the National House of Representatives.—Detroit Free Press.

# THWING TO TRAVEL IN EAST CHINA

INTERNATIONAL REFORM BUREAU APPOINTS HIM ITS SECRETARY FOR CHINA AND HE IS TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE ANTI-OPIMUM CAMPAIGN—CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SHANGHAI ON JANUARY FIRST NEXT.

The International Anti-Opium Conference at Shanghai on January 1 called by President Roosevelt—the greatest act of his life—is growing into a "concert" of the world. At first it was planned to confine it to the seven nations having permanent territorial possessions in eastern Asia namely China, Japan, the United States, Great Britain, Holland, France and Italy. When the commissioners named for the United States began to look into the subject, and perhaps because other nations intimidated they, too, had opium to suppress or to protect, it was seen that five other nations should be invited including Portugal, from whose city of Macao, "the Monte Carlo of the East," located near the coast of China, comes the opium imported to Hawaii and our Pacific coast; also Germany and Russia, probably because of their "spheres of influence" in China; and Turkey and Persia, both of which produce a little opium.

There will be need of prompt and powerful expression of international public sentiment in all these nations by resolutions, petitions, letters and deputations to prevent Portugal from holding back the whole movement as it has twice held back these same nations in their efforts to protect markets, moral and missions in Africa against the white man's rum. Probably some others of the nations represented will oppose any adequate action as it is only in Japan, China, the United States and Great Britain that the people have been educated by public agitation to abhor this curse. The following preamble and resolution is suggested for universal adoption:

Whereas, our nation has been honored with an invitation to participate in an official Anti-Opium Conference of Nations at Shanghai on January 1, 1909, with a view to aiding the Chinese everywhere, and others who feel the opium curse to deal with it wisely and effectually, therefore.

Resolved, that we authorize the chairman of this meeting to petition our own Government to instruct its representatives in this conference to urge that the opium traffic (except as used by physicians) should be put under the same international ban as piracy and slavery as a crime against civilization, and that no revenue interests of any backward nation should be allowed to check the progress recently made through anti-opium legislation in the United States, Great Britain and China.

As in other efforts for moral legislation it will be necessary that official action shall be re-enforced and pressed forward by Christian leaders, and the International Reform Bureau has therefore appointed as its District Secretary for China, Rev. E. W. Thwing, of Honolulu, who has proved himself as a missionary to the Chinese and as a reform leader there and in China. He is to travel through eastern China for some months preceding the official conference at Shanghai, that he may bring to the conference not only information but strong expressions of public sentiment.

Signed copies of the above resolution should be mailed to him care of Y. M. C. A. Hongkong. A large fund is needed to supply him with anti-opium literature for free distribution, including a Chinese translation of the testimony of medical missionaries, gathered by the Reform Bureau, the annihilation of the fallacious plea for a long period to "taper off," and also literature to prevent the threatened substitution for the outlawed opium of American and German beer and cigarettes. Let all who will devote at least one cent a day during 1908 to this greatest thing before the world that can be done, the deliverance of China from a three-fold peril, so write Mr. Thwing or the Reform Bureau.

WILBUR F. CRAFTS, Supt. International Reform Bureau.

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**AFTER** an operation at the hospital, when the patient is in a weakened condition, the doctor will say, "Don't give him any food. Take away that malt extract—it will sicken him. What he needs is good Beer—all he wants of it.

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